Nature Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

*299. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATTION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are paying adequate attention towards nature tourism in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the places that have been indentified by Government for the purpose;

(c) whether it is a fact that accommodation problems also persist at these nature tourism spots; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government for providing accommodation facilities at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The National Action Plan for Tourism lays emphasis on the diversification of tourism including Adventure Tourism. Various activities like mountaineering, trekking, water sports, skiing and wild life tourism which bring tourists close to nature have been identified for development. In Uttar Pradesh, the travel circuit consisting of Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Gangotri-Badrinath has been identified for intensive development with the assistance of the State Government and the private sector.

(c) and (d) The Government offers various incentives and concessions to encourage investment in the accommodation sector and in particular in the hilly, remote and pilgrim areas/centres.

नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज स्थापित किए जाने संबंधी मानदंड

*300. श्री राम सिंह राठवा : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या किसी क्षेत्र में नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज स्थापित किए जाने संबंधी कोई मानदण्ड हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि उक्त मानदण्डों को पूरा किए जाने के बावजूद विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज स्थापित नहीं किए जा रहे हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुख राम) : (क) जी हां। किसी स्थान पर नया टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खोलने के प्रश्न पर तभी विचार किया जाता है जब टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की पंजीकृत मांग 10 अथवा इससे अधिक होती है।

(ख) जी हां। कुछ स्थानों पर, तकनीकी अव्यवहारिकता और संसाधनों की कमी के कारण, नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खोलने में देरी हुई।

(ग) यह एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है, अत: कोई विशिष्ट ब्यौरे तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

Construction of another international Airport at Bombay

2459. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 814 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1993 and state:

(a) whether the I.A.A.I. has acquired the land earmarked for the construction of another international airport at Bombay;

(b) if so, what is its proposed location;

(c) whether any part of the land required for the purose is yet to be

reclaimed from the sea, if so, how much and at what cost; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be awarded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Norms for levying Taxes on Air-Taxes

2460. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of aircraft that have so far been granted licence to fly as Air Taxies;

(b) whether any specific routes have been fixed for each Air Taxi;

(c) whether any taxes are levied on such air taxies; and

(d) if so, what are the norms adopted for the levy on these taxies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) 30 aircraft have been permitted to operate air taxi serivces in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Planes to be purchased by Indian Airlines

2461. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of planes which are likely to be purchased by Indian Airlines in the near future;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines do not have enough pilots to run these new aircrafts; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Indian Airlines has plans to acquire twelve A-320 aircraft during 1993 and 1994.

(b) and (c) Training will be accelerated to meet the requirements of more pilots on A-320 aircraft.

Identification of baggage by the passengers while boarding Indian Airlines flights

2462. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passengers deposit their bagges with the airlines authorities when they check in at the ticket counters;

(b) whether these baggages remained in the custody of the airlines authorities till they are loaded in the aircraft;

(c) if so, what are the reasons that the airlines authorities again ask the passengers to identify their baggages before loading which causes unnecessary delay in the departure of aircraft; and

(d) whether it is a fact that this procedure is not followed at foreign airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is done to ensure that no baggage whose owner is not actually travelling is loaded into the aircraft.

(d) Different countries have adopted different methods.